

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-6 and 22-26 are pending in the application, with 1 and 22 being the independent claims. Support for the amendments to claims 1 and 22 may be found at least on page 23, lines 4-15. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph

Claims 1-6 and 22-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. In particular, the Examiner stated the disclosure and Figures do not show that the hollow body portion of the intermediate housing only accommodates transmission shafts. The Examiner was particularly concerned with filter 902 and its associated filter cap (cylindrical element to the immediate left of filter 902 in FIG. 2). Applicants disagree, however for the purpose of expediting prosecution claims 1 and 22 have been amended to remove the word "only". Applicants believe the amendment to the claims have resolved the above-mentioned issue and respectfully request that the rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claims 1-6 and 22-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention.

The Examiner indicated that the term "transmission units" in claims 1 and 22 included transmission shafts causing the claims to be indefinite. Applicants disagree, but claims 1 and 22 are amended herein for the purpose of furthering prosecution. Claims 1 and 22 have been amended to recite, "in a state that no transmission units are supported on said transmission shafts within said intermediate housing." Applicants believe the amendment to the claims have resolved the above-mentioned issue and respectfully request that the rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

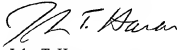
Reply to Advisory Action of July 5, 2007

Ohtsuki *et al.*
Appl. No. 10/731,247

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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